NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE COALITION

December 14, 2020

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Building
Washington DC 20510

Senate Democratic Leader Charles E. Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senate Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer,

On behalf of the organizations of the National Child Abuse Coalition, we encourage you to pass H.R. 2480, the *Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act*, before the conclusion of this Congress. Although we appreciate the bipartisan efforts of Senators Alexander and Murray to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), the Senate was unable to pass its own bill, and children at risk of child abuse and neglect should not wait.

The bipartisan reforms passed by the House in May 2019 are extremely important. The legislation would strengthen families through community-driven solutions, and improve local responses to child trauma, increase states' child safety tools. It also includes key reforms proposed by the Congressionally-mandated Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities. If passed into law, this non-controversial, bipartisan legislation is well-designed to ensure that Congressional priorities would have an immediate impact on the prevention of child abuse and neglect. What's more, the *Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act*'s comprehensive approach includes much-needed streamlining and updating of CAPTA in ways that will ensure effective implementation of the law. Multiple investigative exposés have determined that amendments to CAPTA will not have an impact without this comprehensive reform approach.

Thank you for your commitment to the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect, and to improving the lives of children and families in the United States.

Sincerely,

Ruth J. Friedman, Ph.D.
Executive Director
National Child Abuse Coalition

cc: Speaker Nancy Pelosi
House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy
Chairman Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member Patty Murray
Chairman Bobby Scott
Ranking Member Virginia Foxx